

## Message Text

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21 14

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-20 NSC-10 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00

RSC-01 CPR-02 PA-04 USSS-00 DRC-01 /063 W

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R 280515Z NOV 73

FM AMCONSUL SYDNEY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5018

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMCONSUL MELBOURNE

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

UNCLAS SYDNEY 2715

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP (REAGAN, RONALD)

SUBJ: GOVERNOR RONALD REAGAN'S TRIP TO SYDNEY

1. GOVERNOR AND MRSBE RONALD REAGAN DEPARTED BY SPECIAL MISSION USAF AIRCRAFT NOVEMBER 28 AT 11:00 AM. ENROUTE TO MELBOURNE AFTER A HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL DAY AND A HALF VISIT IN SYDNEY. DURING THE VISIT THE GOVERNOR AND MRS. REAGAN ATTENDED LUNCHEON GIVEN BY INSTITUTE OF DIRECTORS AT WHICH THE GOVERNOR SPOKE; GOVERNOR REAGAN GAVE A 30 MINUTE PRESS CONFERENCE WHILE MRS. REAGAN TALKED WITH WOMEN REPORTERS; BOTH TOURED THE SYDNEY OPERA HOUSE AND CALLED ON GOVERNOR AND LADY CUTLER, AND FINALLY RECEIVED A LARGE NUMBER OF SYDNEY POLITICIANS AND BUSINESSMEN AT MY RESIDENCE. THE VISIT APPEARED FROM ALL POINTS OF VIEW TO BE AN UNQUALIFIED SUCCESS.

2. AT THE INSTITUTE OF DIRECTORS LUNCHEON ATTENDED BY WELL OVER 300 BUSINESSMEN AS WELL AS NEWLY RE-ELECTED PREMIER SIR ROBERT ASKIN, GOVERNOR REAGAN SPOKE ABOUT 30 MINUTES TO A HIGHLY ENTHUSIASTIC AUDIENCE. THE AUDIENCE INTERRUPTED WITH APPLAUSE ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS IN RESPONSE TO THE GOVERNOR'S DISCUSSION OF THE DANGERS OF "BIG GOVERNMENT".

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3. AT PRESS CONFERENCE IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING LUNCHEON, GOVERNOR REAGAN ANSWERED QUESTIONS FOR ABOUT 30 MINUTES BEFORE APPROX 40 REPRESENTATIVES OF ALL MEDIA. MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES WERE NOT UNFRIENDLY TO THE U.S. OR TO GOVERNOR REAGAN BUT THE GREATER PART OF THE PRESS CON-

ERENCE WAS DEVOTED TO PROBING QUESTIONS ON THE MANY RAMIFICATIONS OF WATERGATE ALL OF WHICH THE GOVERNOR HANDLED WITH EASE. THE GOVERNOR WAS ALSO PRESSED ON HIS OWN FUTURE POLITICAL INTENTIONS, PARTICULARLY IN THE 1976 PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGN. THE ONLY QUESTION RELATING TO AUSTRALIAN-AMERICAN RELATIONS DEALT WITH ALLEGED CONTENTION BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES. WITHOUT GETTING INVOLVED IN A DISCUSSION OF SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES, GOVERNOR REAGAN POINTED OUT THAT THE AUSTRALIAN-AMERICAN RELATIONSHIP IS AN OLD AND CLOSE ONE WHICH CAN BE COMPARED TO A MARRIAGE WHICH, LIKE ALL MARRIAGES, SOMETIMES HAS ITS ROUGH PATCHES.

4. REAGANS WERE ESCORTED THROUGH SYDNEY OPERA HOUSE BY GENERAL MANAGER FRANK BARNES TO WHOM THEY EXPRESSED THEIR ADMIRATION FOR THE OPERA HOUSE AND WHO CLEARLY WAS MUCH FLATTERED TO HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO SHOW OFF THE OPERA HOUSE.

5. REAGAN VISIT RECEIVED CONSIDERABLE AND GENERALLY FRIENDLY PRESS ATTENTION. ALL PAPERS REPORTED SPEECH AND PRESS CONFERENCE WITH FRONT PAGE PICS OF GOVERNOR AND MRS. REAGAN. PRESS CONFERENCE WAS TELECAST ON ALL NEWS AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS PROGRAMS ON ALL FOUR TELEVISION STATIONS. SPEECH AND PRESS CONFERENCE ALSO REPORTED ON NEWS PROGRAMS ON ALL LOCAL RADIO STATIONS.

6. I BELIEVE REAGAN VISIT WAS DEFINITE PLUS FOR THE IMAGE OF THE U.S. IN SYDNEY. APART FROM THE EXCELLENT PERSONAL IMPRESSION WHICH THEY CREATED, I BELIEVE THAT THE MANY SYDNEY BUSINESSMEN AND POLITICAL FIGURES WHO MET THE GOVERNOR WERE GENUINELY PLEASED AND FLATTERED BY THE ATTENTION BEING SHOWN THEIR CITY. ALL WERE GENERALLY FAMILIAR WITH THE GOVERNOR'S POLITICAL BACKGROUND AND HIS KNOWN VIEWS ON THE DANGERS OF TOO MUCH AND TOO BIG GOVERNMENT WHICH SEEMED TO STRIKE A SYMPATHETIC CHORD.  
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THERE WAS NEVER ANY MANIFESTATION OF HOSTILITY TO THE GOVERNOR'S VISIT.

7. FROM MANAGERIAL POINT OF VIEW, VISIT PROCEEDED SMOOTHLY AS RESULT OF EXCELLENT COOPERATION BY NEW SOUTH WALES PROTOCOL AND POLICE DEPARTMENTS AND THE CAREFUL UNDERSTANDING ADVANCE WORK DONE BY DON LIVINGSTON AND HOWARD BECKER OF THE GOVERNOR'S PARTY,

TOGETHER WITH CONTROL OFFICER JAMES C. MARSHALL. HANNAH

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